

BC WORKS!

The City of Battle Creek's Department of Public Works Newsletter

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City Installs Habitat for Pollinators

The City of Battle Creek received grant funding in the spring from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to install pollinator habitat in the City. This project will convert over 8.5 acres of mowed turf grass to native plantings that have been selected to benefit native pollinators. Pollinators need a variety of plants that provide nectar and pollen sources throughout the spring, summer and fall. An added benefit of this project is a reduction in gasoline use and carbon emissions resulting from less mowing.

About seven acres of the habitat will be planted along Jackson Street, between 20th Street and Stringham Road. The remaining habitat will be installed at the Leila Arboretum. The MDNR funding will cover the cost of site preparation, annual cover crop seed, native pollinator habitat seed (composed of 42 species), contractor costs and outreach. The cost of 25 trees and site preparation for tree planting is also covered under the grant.

Habitat loss is one of the major factors contributing to the decline in pollinators observed in recent years. It has been estimated that **CONTINUED**



Contact us:

City of Battle Creek
Department of Public Works
150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek, MI 49037
269-966-3507

(CONTINUED From Page 1)

from 2008-2013, wild bees declined 23% in the Midwest due to loss of natural habitat (USDA, 2017). Urban areas are often lacking in pollinator habitat with much of the land cover in pavement and turf grass.

Honeybees aren't the only insects that are important for pollinating plants. In Michigan, there are actually 450 kinds of bees, in addition to the butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, ants - and birds and bats - that also serve as important pollinators.

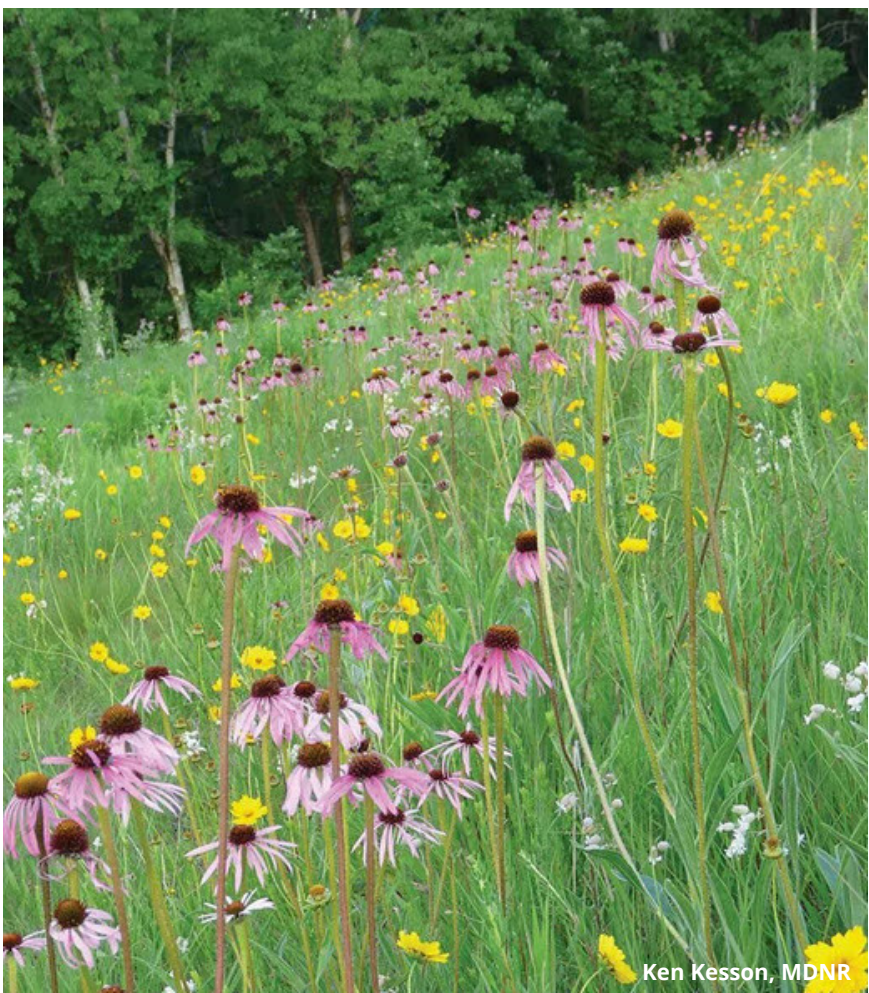
Project Schedule

- Spring 2021:** Eliminate grass cover and plant annual cereal rye cover crop
- Summer 2021:** Maintain rye cover crop and eliminate weed competition
- Fall 2021:** Eliminate rye cover crop; plant native seed mix and trees
- Spring 2022 and annually:** Mow 1-2 times/year to eliminate weeds and any unwanted woody vegetation

For Additional Information

Contact the City of Battle Creek, Department of Public Works, (269) 966-3343

(<https://www.usda.gov/mdeia/blog/2016/06/24/reversing-pollinator-decline-key-feeding-future>)



Think FROG - Stop the Clog!

The City of Battle Creek is asking for your help to keep the City's sanitary sewer system working properly. The drains in your home are designed to handle **ONLY** used water, human waste and toilet paper. Dispose of other items in the trash - to stop the clog.

FROG - Fats, Rags, Oils and Grease are the leading causes of sanitary sewer clogs, backups and overflows.

- FROG causes the City costly maintenance and repairs
- FROG can create health hazards, home damage and environmental impacts
- Sources of FROG include:
 - meat fats
 - cooking oil
 - butter
 - food scraps
 - paper towels
 - feminine hygiene products
 - "flushable" wipes of all kinds (Wipes marketed as "flushable" will not break down like toilet paper, resulting in clogged sewer lines.)



Tips to avoid clogged sewer pipes:

- Scrape grease and food scraps into garbage
- Dispose of diapers, wipes and personal hygiene products in the trash
- Don't flush paper towels, rags or wipes of any kind - none are actually "flushable"



These materials stick to the inside of the pipes and can eventually block the entire flow of water. Please help us keep the sewers flowing - and stop the clog!

Keep up with the Battle Creek Area Clean Water Partners events and news at bcwater.org or on their Facebook page.



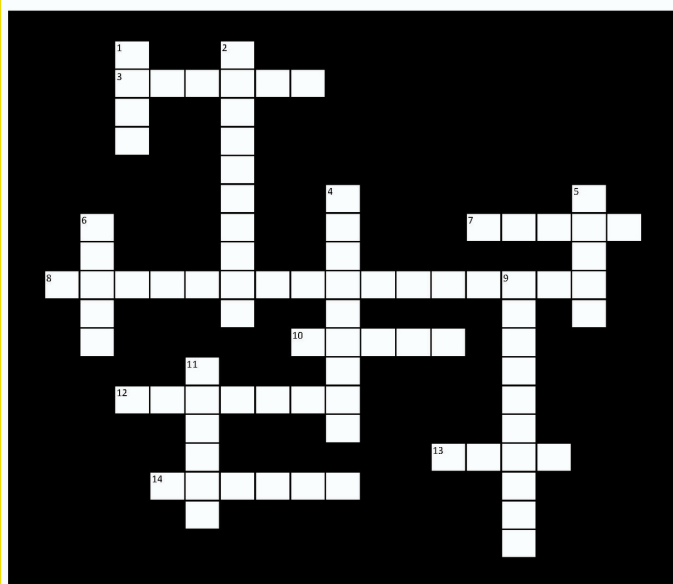
Alternative Waste Disposal Resources



So what can you do with those items that are not accepted in the City's curbside recycling or trash program? The City and Calhoun County host many special collection events throughout the year, but if you can't make it to those, below are some additional waste disposal resources. Be sure to call ahead to see if your items will be accepted.

- **Plastic bags:** *Meijer* stores accept clean and dry plastic grocery bags, zip-top storage bags, salt bags, plastic cereal liners, bread bags, product film wraps, ice bags, salt bags, dry cleaning bags
- **Household Hazardous Waste:** *Kalamazoo HHW Center* (1301 Lamont Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI, 269-383-8742 - fees apply) see: <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/eh/hhw/>
- **Used motor oil and oil filters:** Most oil change businesses and auto supply stores take used oil at no cost
- **Medications:** Unused/expired medications can be disposed of in a Red Med box. For a listing of drop off locations, visit: <https://www.drugfreebc.org>, then click "Helpful Links" then "Red Med Box Locations"
- **Sharps:** Drop-boxes are for residential use only and require the sharps to be placed in a shatterproof container such as a small sharps collection container or a rigid plastic container with a tight lid. Disposal of loose sharps is not allowed in the drop box. (Toeller Building, 190 E. Michigan Ave., Battle Creek, MI)
- **Styrofoam:** Free drop off at *Dart Container* (432 Hogsback Rd., Mason, MI, 517-676-3800) and *Biz Aid* (90 Darling Drive, Coldwater, MI, 517-227-4901)
- **Batteries & compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs):** *Batteries and Bulbs* (15611 S. Helmer Rd., Battle Creek, 269-965-6733 - fees may apply) or City neighbors can get free battery and CFL recycling boxes at the *Department of Public Works* (150 S. Kendall St., Battle Creek, 269-966-3507)
- **Scrap metal:** *Franklin Metal* (120 South Ave., Battle Creek, MI, 269-968-6111)
- **Electronics/appliances:** *Best Buy* (12765 Harper Village Dr., Suite 160, Battle Creek, MI, 269-979-8336 - fees may apply) or *Franklin Metal* (see above)
- **Other?:** Check the Calhoun County "Recycling Guide" at: calhouncountymi.gov then search "Recycling Guide"

BC Works Puzzle - Recycling



ACTION
BATH
BLUE
COLLECTING
DONATE
LITTER
NEWSPAPER
PAPER
RECYCLE
REPUBLIC SERVICES
REUSE
STEEL
UTILITY BILL
WASTE

ACROSS

- 3 Scattered waste
7 Material you write on
8 Battle Creek's new residential solid waste hauler
10 Also called "rubbish" or "trash": your mind is a terrible thing to _____.
12 To use our resources again, we must _____ our paper, plastic and glass.
13 Save water by taking a shower instead of a _____.
14 One way to recycle is to _____ used items to charity instead of throwing it away.

DOWN

- 1 Color of Republics recycle bins.
2 City neighbors are billed monthly for solid waste service through their _____.
4 When your family is done reading the _____ you can recycle it.
5 Recycle, reduce and _____: rhymes with snooze
6 Soup cans are made of this: Superman is the "Man of _____".
9 The first step in the recycling loop.
11 When you recycle, you are taking _____ to help our environment.

Republic Services Waste Carts

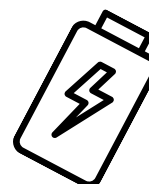
There's still time to rent a 96-gallon trash cart or yard waste cart from Republic Services. Carts are available for only \$39/year for one cart and \$30/year for each additional cart.

You can also still call to receive one recycling cart per household - at no additional charge.



We'll handle it from here.™

Call 269-216-8008 to sign up.



FREE battery and compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL) recycling kits are available at the Department of Public Works (150 S. Kendall St.). Call us to pick one up!
(269) 966-3507

Department of Public Works Events

The City of Battle Creek hosts a number of events each year to help City neighbors with recycling and to provide opportunities for stewardship and enjoyment of our local natural resources. Highlights of our recent events are presented below.

- **Earth Day Linear Path Clean-up:** 50 volunteers, 15 yds + 70 bags of trash and 2,500 ft³ of invasive species removed
- **Children's Water Festival:** 16 classrooms and >400 students participated
- **Rain Barrel Sale:** 39 rain barrels and 2 composters sold
- **Battle Creek Farmer's Market outreach:** 455 visitors over 7 weeks
- **Styrofoam collections (2 events):** 310 visitors and 2,506 lbs of Styrofoam collected
- **Scrap Tire collection:** 94 visitors and 1,430 tires collected
- **Kanoe the Kazoo paddling event:** 60 participants
- **Calhoun County Appliance/Electronic collection:** 515 visitors, 12,660 lbs appliances and 69,197 lbs electronics collected
- **Styrofoam/Electronics collection:** 455 visitors
- **Battle Creek Area Clean Water Partners Photo Contest:** 60 entries
- **2020 Krazy for the Kazoo Clean-up/Stewardship:** 120 volunteers, 72 bags of trash and 6,240 ft³ of invasive species removed, 30 native shrubs planted

To learn more about City of Battle Creek events and volunteer opportunities, visit bcwater.org/events or contact Bessie Stears at: bestears@battlecreekmi.gov or (269) 966-3355, ext. 1889.



Over 1,400 tires collected!



60 paddlers!



39 rain barrels sold!



Over 2,500 pounds of Styrofoam collected!

Street Sweeping

Did you know that all the City's streets are cleaned three to four times each year? The City's Field Services staff use two street sweepers, working in tandem, to get litter and debris off the streets. The first sweeper dislodges and collects the bigger material that accumulates along the curb line, while the second sweeper collects the remaining, smaller debris. The coarse metal brushes on the sweeper trucks dislodge debris which is then vacuumed into the truck. Street sweeping helps to keep our local waterways clean by removing garbage, dirt and sand, cigarette butts, leaves and anything else that ends up at the curb. When it rains, all of the debris from yards, sidewalks, streets and parking lots ends up in the storm sewers that flow directly to our rivers and lakes - UNTREATED! After three rounds of street sweeping in 2021, the City has removed **970 tons of debris** from the streets. The collected debris is stored at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant and is later removed to a landfill.

During the fall months, please be sure to keep leaves out of the streets by bagging them for removal, mulching them back into the lawn, hauling them to the City's compost site (Brice Pit, 715 W. River Rd.) or contracting with a lawn service. Excess leaves in the City's streets and storm sewers can create clogs, resulting in flooding and maintenance issues.

Other ways you can help to help keep our storm sewers and local waters clean:

- Pick up litter and dispose of it in the trash
- Properly dispose of household chemicals, oils, paints, pesticides, cleaners and pharmaceuticals at a local collection event (see bcwater.org/events for a listing of upcoming events)
- Bag pet waste and dispose of it in the trash
- Wash cars at a commercial car wash or on the lawn so soapy water will soak into the soil
- Minimize the use of de-icing salt during the winter months by shoveling early and often



Street sweeper



Debris collected from the City streets

Thanks to our City of Battle Creek Volunteers!

The City of Battle Creek is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers to help with our sustainability/stewardship efforts throughout the year. The Department of Public Works events (listed on Page 4) couldn't happen without the help of our volunteers who give so generously of their time. We were able to accomplish so much in 2020 and 2021 - with a little help from our friends! To volunteer for upcoming events, contact Bessie at 269-966-3355, ext. 1889.



A BIG thank you to the following volunteers for all their help making Battle Creek a great place to be in 2021!

Eric Allen & Mason	Derrick Freeman	Jim Melliush	Jonny Skeltis
Mary Amand	JoAnne Fury	Hank Melliush	Frank Skeltis
Jill Anderson & George	Elizabeth Gao	Louie Melliush	Karen Slack
Sue Anderson	Ben Garbarick	Ben Merchant	Jody, Ethan & Alyssa Smith
Corinne Anderson	Todd Gerber	Gerald Mewissen	Erik Smoot
Sara Andree	Tersa Gest	Wendy Meyer	Jean Sadowski-Pufpaff
Kathy Antaya	Bob Gilbert	Rob Meyer	Marie-Josée St-Amand
Rod Auton	David Gilbert	Andrew Michalowski	Andy Storey
Aryana Banerji	B. Greer	Evan Milburn	Deb Stuart
Rudy Barda	James Griffioen	David Miller	Ken Swisher
Marge Barda	Helen Guzzo	Catharine Miller	Matthew Szczesiul
Gary Barton	Edward Guzzo	Braudy Millions Ryan, Chris, & Michael	Austin Taylor
Kari Barton	Jim Haadsma	Sandy Mobley	Alysha Taylor
David Beard	Robert Hansard & Adalyn	Mike Myska	Gerald Tilman
Nicholas Behnke	Perry Hart	Judy Naylor	Joe Trapp
Sally Belson	Richard Heeres	Isabell Nazar	Kurt Tribbett
Jonah Benson	Susan Heeres	Emma Nehan	Ellie Tribbett
Brian Binger	Jennifer Hernandez	Barb Neild	Sunday Troutman
Kristin Blood & family	Barbara Hicks	Isabelle Noffsinger	Lauren, Emily, Weston & Eden Vining
Charles Boganberger	Paula Higgins	Red O'Leary	Shaun Vining
Peggy Bohl	Sue Hoch	Sophie Paquin	Jeff Vondell
Virginia Boshier	Sharon Hoch	Sui Par	Denis Vosburg
Riley Boshier	Kimberly Holley	Jane Parikh	Jessica Vosburg
Mary Bourgeois	Victoria Houser	Rosemary Pasman	Chuck Walsh
Joshua Bredeweg	Cathy Hutchison	Mark Patterson	Jon Warner
Nellie Briggs	Ian Hyndman	Adria Paya	Brad Watson
Zachary Brooks	Kordell Irish	Linda Pell	Kimberly Way-Luong
Erin Buchko	Paul Jakubiak	Luke Perry	Robert Wedel
Dale Bufka	Jerome Korten	Rita Phail	Karen Weideman
Kay Calley-Martin	Linn Kracht	Coriahna Qugley	Ann Weiss
Savanah Childress	Mary Kurtz	Katie Reasons	Aleck Wendell
Tom Clark	Beth Lake	J. R., Aunona & Isaiah Reynolds	Jeff Wendell
Bryan Cook	Rachel Lancaster	Teresa, Rosalyn & Alexandria Rhodes	Brian Wensauer
Jim Coury	Lisa Lanitelli	Larry Rizor	Brent Wensauer
Diane Craig	Spencer Leakehe	Mitch Robbins	Marilyn Wiersma
Justan, Ryan & Daniel Crane	Josh Leatherman & Evan	Sharon Roberts	Chaz Wilkey
Bonnie De'Gennaro	Doug Leatherman	Enrique Rodriguez	Grace C.-Williams
Al De'Gennaro	Chriss Leatherman	Isidra Ross	Doreen Woods
Donald Jay DeNooyer	Jon Lee	Eric Ryan	Rob Youman
Tom Ebeling	Stephen Lewis	Lisa Ryan	Kimberly Youman & "The Others"
Asa Edmonds	Seth Lindsey	Michelle Salazar	Battle Creek Area Math & Science Center
Ron Enger	Pat Linol	Susan Scalabrino	32 Social
Cindy Enger	Dan Lok	John Scalabrino	Kellogg "Go Green" Team
Todd Everson	David Mace	Jacob Schacht	
Jordyn Eyre	Nancy MacFarland	Kelley Schroyer	
Carl Fedders & Mary	Rebecca Mawi	Kyle Schroyer	
Maya Ferguson	Katrina Mayes	Ivan, Jared and Colin Scovel	
Jess Fleming	Roy Melliush	Rachel Shalloway	



We apologize to anyone we may have missed.
A big thank you to you all!



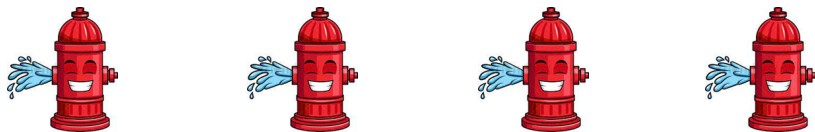
Hydrant Flushing

The City of Battle Creek Water Division will conduct their annual hydrant flushing program starting the last week of September and finishing in approximately three or four weeks. Water Division crews will be flushing fire hydrants from **Monday through Friday during daytime hours of 7:30 am to 4:00 pm**. This change in scheduling is being done to provide safer working conditions and to accommodate other scheduling challenges within the Water Division.

Regular water system flushing allows for the highest quality of water to be delivered to our customers. Hydrant flushing also allows the staff of the Water Division to verify operation of the fire hydrants and identify areas of the distribution system that require repair and/or maintenance. This also ensures that the fire hydrants are ready should the Fire Department need them.

The flushing process may result in cloudy or discolored water. The Water Division does what it can to limit this, but it is difficult to avoid completely. The flushing process and discolored water does not diminish the safety of the water supply. **Please be observant of water conditions when doing laundry. Should you notice discolored water, please do a "Cold Water Flush" to clear your service line and plumbing. Instructions can be found on the City's website by searching "Cold Water Flush" from the homepage.**

A schedule and map of our planned flushing program is available on our website, www.battlecreekmi.gov. Check out the **City Spotlight** section at the bottom of the home page. The Water Division will update the schedule regularly, posting maps of the daily work.



Salt Storage Facility

It's taken several years to get to this point, but the City is now ready to begin the process of relocating the salt storage facility from the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on River Road to a more central location. One factor for the move is the additional space required for a new biosolids project being tested at the WWTP.

The City has an "option to purchase" agreement on a 12-acre site on Helmer Road South, across the road from Meijer. An environmental site assessment on the property has been completed, and the City received a favorable report.

The site would consist of a fully-enclosed building with the capacity to hold at least 5,000 tons of salt and the liquid deicing system. This facility will also likely include a cold storage building and possible work space for the City's Signal/Sign Shop.

Next steps include generating a conceptual site plan for submittal to the City Planning Commission for consideration of a Special Use Permit (SUP). The SUP process includes public notification and at least one public meeting. Once approved by the Planning Commission, it then goes to the City Commission for their consideration.

The project will likely be bid out for proposals in the spring of 2022 with construction beginning in late 2022, and the facility ready for first use during the 2023-24 winter season.

For additional information regarding the City's proposed new salt storage facility, visit: battlecreekmi.gov/faq and search "Helmer Salt Storage Facility Project".

Traffic Signal Safety Rules

If you drive up to a traffic signal that is completely dark, likely from a power outage, and there are no other traffic control devices or police there, Michigan law says you must treat the intersection as a four-way stop.

In the graphic on the right, that means all three cars must stop when they arrive at the white stop line. The red car on the left would proceed through the intersection first, then the purple car, up top, and then the blue car, on the right.

The City places stop signs and generators when possible, mostly at signals on city streets. We must first get MDOT approval to do this at traffic signals on MDOT routes, like Columbia Avenue and Capital Avenue. They do not allow the City to automatically place stop signs, because of potential confusion when the signal powers back on, and a crew is not able to remove the signs right away.

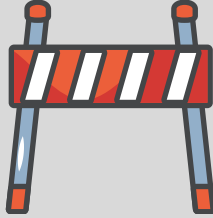


CONSTRUCTION SEASON 2022

Pending approval from the City Commission, the Engineering Division is preparing the following projects to be completed during the 2022 construction season.

The following road will be **Chip sealed**:

- Central St from Emmett St to Pleasantview Dr.
- Pleasantview Dr from Central St to Orchard Ave
- Chestnut St from Emmett St to Pleasantview Dr
- Woodmer Ln from Chestnut St to Merwood Dr E
- Crest Dr from Merwood Dr E to Orchard Ave
- Crest Ln from Crest Dr to end
- Laurel Dr from Chestnut St to East Ave N
- Orchard Ave from Emmet St to Curtis Ave
- Merwood Dr E from Chestnut St to N McKinley Ave
- Clinton Dr from Emmett St to Laurel Dr
- Clinton Dr E from Clinton Dr to Laurel Dr
- W Pitman Ave from Clinton Dr E to East Ave N
- N McKinley Ave from Emmett St to Lindsey St
- Hunter St from N McKinley Ave to East Ave N
- Morley St from Laurel Dr to end
- Garrison Rd from Pleasantview Dr to E Roosevelt Ave
- Cornell Dr from Orchard Ave to East Ave N
- Curtis Ave from Orchard Ave to N McKinley Ave
- Lindsey St from Garrison Rd to N McKinley Ave
- Beacon Ridge Dr from East Ave N to end



What is **Chip seal**? Inexpensive, effective method to extend pavement life, by applying small chips in a liquid asphalt. The road is swept to remove dust, a liquid layer is sprayed onto the road, and chips are applied and rolled over.

The following roads will be **Resurfaced**:

- Pleasantview Dr from Orchard Ave to East Ave N
- Woodward Ave from Capital Ave NE to Bryant St
- Sanderson St from Capital Ave NE to Emmett St
- Convis St from Capital Ave NE to Emmett St
- Washington Ave from Michigan Ave W to Goodale Ave
- Kedzie Ct from Orient St to Upton Ave
- Spring St from Meachem Ave to Upton Ave
- Mint St from Meachem Ave to Washington Ave
- W Fountain St from Meachem Ave to Caroline St
- Plantain St from Meachem Ave to Capital Ave SW
- Elder St from Meachem Ave to Capital Ave SW
- Sumac St from Meachem Ave to Capital Ave SW
- Bedford Rd from Dickman Rd to Creekview Dr
- Highland Ave from Columbia Ave to Territorial Rd
- Kelwood Ln from Honey Ln to Honey Ln
- Honey Ln from Sunnyside Dr to end
- Buckner Dr from south end to north end
- Logistics Dr from Skyline Dr to end



What is **Resurfacing**? A quick process in which 1.5 to 2 inches are milled off the top, enough to remove defects, after which a new layer of asphalt is laid. Prior to road work crews will also perform lead service line replacement.

The following locations will receive **Water Main Replacement**:

- Helmer Rd S from I-94 to Beckley Rd
- Beckley Rd from Helmer Rd S to S Minges Rd

Summary: Full replacement of water infrastructure along with associated road improvement including road surface.

The following location will receive **Infrastructure Improvements**:

- Sisson Ave from Riverside Dr to end (Sanitary)
- Foster Ave from Columbia to Surby Ave (Water/Storm)
- Lakeview Ave from Foster to LaVista Blvd (Water/Storm)

Summary: Full replacement of water and storm infrastructure along with associated road improvement including road surface, curb and gutter and driveways.

The following roads will be **Reconstructed**:

- 6th Ave. from Helmer to end

What is **Reconstructing**? Full pulverization of the asphalt and six inches of base; the mixture will be used as the base for the new pavement. Layers of asphalt may vary.

As the construction season nears, impacted neighbors will be notified by the project personnel of the anticipated timelines. Neighbors along these routes may encounter team members performing maintenance and inspections prior to projects beginning. This could include activities like tree trimming, valve exercising, lead service line replacement and sewer inspection.

Questions/concerns should be forwarded to Carl Fedders, DPW Director, at (269) 966-3343 or by email at cefedders@battlecreekmi.gov

Customers can also get information on these projects by signing up for alerts here:

<https://www.battlecreekmi.gov/list.aspx>

To view the **2022 Street Treatments Map** go to battlecreekmi.gov/publicworks, click on "Engineering", and scroll to "Road Surface Treatments".

Sign up for Battle Creek's "**NOTIFY ME**" service to get email and text alerts on the City's street closures, boil water advisories, solid waste collection news and much more.



Visit:

<http://www.battlecreekmi.gov/notifyme>



Snow Plowing

Winter is just around the corner and it will soon be time to think about keeping snow off our city streets and sidewalks. To help minimize the need to shovel your driveway twice, see the diagram below for guidance.

Avoid the “Second Shovel”

After a snowstorm, how many times have you shoveled your driveway only to have it plowed in when your local snowplow comes through? Clearing an area to the right of your driveway (as seen in the diagram below), giving the snow on the plow a place to go other than your driveway, should keep you from having to do the same job twice.



Also, please remove any basketball hoops or other items that may keep the snow plows from servicing your street - before the snow falls. Plows need full access to the streets to keep the roadways safe for travel. Be sure to also keep garbage, yard waste and recycling containers on the curb and out of the streets during the winter months. Thanks for your help in keeping the streets safe for all Battle Creek neighbors!

If you have questions, please contact: (269) 966-3507.

Winterizing Plumbing

Winter Water ✓ in

From the City of Battle Creek

With Michigan's cold climate in mind, here are some helpful hints to prevent potential damage to your home, related to freezing water pipes and meters. These suggestions will go a long way to avoid the unexpected cost and inconvenience a freeze-up can cause. If these items freeze, they can stop the flow of your water, or burst and cause flooding.

LOCATION

Check crawl spaces and basements where water lines are located. These areas should be clear of

cold drafts

and should have heat access, so pipes and meters do not freeze. Open the door partway if your water meter is in a cabinet.

HOSES

Once winter and cold temperatures arrive, remove hoses from your outside faucets, so they can drain as designed. Otherwise, this could

freeze & flood

your basement.

COLD AREAS

Look for water pipes and meters near windows or outside walls, and air leaks between your foundation and wood part of your home, where a draft could be cold enough to

freeze the pipes.

QUESTIONS

If you have additional questions, or find you have

lost water

please call the city teams in Water Distribution, 269-966-3506 or Utility Billing, 269-966-3366. After hours, call 269-966-3493.